



File Code: 1950/1560

Date: February 21, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

The Ouachita National Forest, Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District, has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Ladd's Creek project. Ladd's Creek is approximately 8 miles southeast of Booneville, Arkansas, just east of the small community of Sugar Grove, Arkansas. Blue Mountain Lake and the Community of Magazine are north of this project area. The project area is in the northern portion of the Ouachita National Forest. The private land is in Compartment 207 in the northwest portion of the Ladd's Creek project area. Dry Creek Wilderness Area is adjacent to the south.

Legal descriptions are:

- Logan County Township 5 North Range 26 West Sections 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
- Logan County Township 4 North Range 26 West Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Yell County Township 5 North Range 25 West Section 31
- Yell County Township 4 North Range 25 West Section 6

The project includes timber harvest, prescribe burning, wildlife improvements, and system road improvements for Management Area 17 (Semi-Primitive Areas) and Management Area 14 (Ouachita Mountains, Habitat Diversity Emphasis). The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The EA is available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ouachita/landmanagement/projects>. Documentation is also available for review at Cold Springs Ranger District office in Booneville, AR.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments per §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6), §219.53. For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

Written comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, P.O. Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927 or fax to 479-675-3232. Oral or hand-delivered comments may be made at 1541 Hwy 248 West, Waldron, AR during normal weekday business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to SM.FS.r8oucsprdc@usda.gov.





**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Ouachita National Forest
Cold Springs Ranger District**

**PO Box 417
Booneville, AR 72927**

For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Please state "Ladd's Creek project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. After considering your comments, the Forest Service will finalize the EA. Prior to decision, an objection period will be provided on the final EA and a draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Donna Reagan at donna.reagan@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/Edwin Spence
Acting District Ranger

